



## **DELAWARE INSTITUTE OF DENTAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DIDER) QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Department of Health and Social Services

Herman M. Holloway Sr. Health and Social Services Campus – Conf. Room 198

1901 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720

### **Meeting Attendance**

#### **Board Members Present:**

- Louis Rafetto, DMD (Chair)
- Nicholas Conte, DMD, MBA
- Lisa Goss, RDH, BS
- Bruce Matthews, DDS
- Brian McAllister, DDS
- Ray S. Rafetto, DMD

#### **Board Members Absent:**

- Theodore W. Becker, Jr.
- Wanda Gardiner-Smith, DDS
- Howard Zucker, DDS

#### **Delaware Health Care Commission Staff Present:**

- Elisabeth Scheneman, Executive Director
- Eschalla Clarke, Social Services Senior Administrator

#### **Guests Attending:**

- Mrs. Pamela Gardner, Delaware Health Sciences Alliance
- Mr. Brian Hahn, Temple University



## Meeting Minutes

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Louis Rafetto (Chair) called the meeting to order at approximately 3:05PM.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – BOARD VOTE**

July 10, 2019 and September 4, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed, and a motion raised by board member, Dr. Ray Rafetto, to increase the font size. DIDER Chair, Dr. Louis Rafetto, flagged concerns about State support for operation of the program, citing persistent budget decrease over the years as an example. The board voted to unanimously approved the July and September minutes.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE – Dr. Nicholas Conte, Delaware Dental Director**

One Dentist retired recently at the DeLaWarr State Service Center and services are suspended indefinitely. There are no immediate plans to fill the vacancy.

Schools Screening Program is currently underway. The Division of Public Health (DPH) had a strong kickoff for the program and is receiving high response rates. The organization has gained support from all sixteen (16) school superintendents and the expectation is to have a presence in 70-75% of schools within the year. Surveillance of oral health across the state is the primary purpose of this program. The objective is to screen for visual and untreated presence of decay and follow up within 48 hours to connect children in need of care with their communities. School nurses will get a comprehensive list of findings, and the principal receives breakout of the percentage of students that needs to connect to care.

### ***What staffing capacity is available at DPH?***

- 3 Full-Time Providers
- 2 Full-Time Hygienists
- 2 Part-Time Contracted Hygienists (currently recruiting)

### ***Is there room to grow?***

There is a 25% open headcount over the past three years, with 8 open roles at all times. Recruitment is always a challenge, and based on past experiences, meeting 100% of capacity is highly unlikely.

### **DELAWARE DENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE**



DIDER Chair read and reviewed the Wrap Up and Action Plans from the July 10, 2020 dental health conference minutes. The following deep dives are needed to determine how DIDER can facilitate impactful initiatives:

- Where do we stand in terms of **workforce capacity**? Accurately measure existing practitioners, how actively are they practicing, and what is the State's shortage? Is it DIDER's responsibility to conduct the study? What questions do we want answered? Other States (Indiana and Georgia) have conducted studies in the past, the ADA also publishes reports.
- Who decides what the **Adult Medicaid** program looks like? How is the program funded – State/Federal? What is the budget capacity? Is there a sliding fee schedule and what does it look like – access to care is meaningless without affordability? Who is administering the program? Is it two application processes to participate in adult and pediatric programs, or is there an automated rollover system?
- Mid-level auxiliary (dental assistants) providers increases productivity of dental offices. In the past there was an unsuccessful attempt with Delaware Technical Community College to enhance training for dental assistants. Who regulates professional capacity of dental assistants?

#### **TEMPLE UNIVERSITY CONTRACT** – *Brian Hahn, Director of Admissions*

Contract content is being reshaped by Temple University. New employees are reviewing the documents and reevaluating relevance of contract terms and conditions. For example, the 3+4 and 4+4 programs have been eliminated from University of Delaware. There is no clarity on why legal is changing the contract. The admission office remains focused on sustaining the DIDER partnership. Seven (7) first year Delaware students are enrolled in academic year 2019-2020.

DIDER will connect with the University of Delaware to reinstitute the 4+4 program.

#### **DIDER LEGISLATIVE PLAN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

No discussion.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Licensure is a mental blocker for students consider practice in Delaware. Brian Hahn recommends developing a one-pager on licensure to hand out to students.



One student outreach event is coming up on November 14, 2019 at 6:00PM. This is the dinner that was reinstituted at Temple University last year.

Temple University has seen a decrease in dental applications recently; the admissions office has tracked the data for three years. DIDER Program is gaining applicants annually.

The proposed 2020 DIDER board meeting calendar is approved.

Bylaws should be developed for DIDER board to enforce participation and commitment by members.

Formal discussions are needed for State Fiscal Year 2022 budget increases.

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:58PM. The next DIDER Board meeting is tentatively scheduled as follows;

#### **Next DIDER Meeting**

*Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 3:00PM*

*Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 3:00PM*

*Venue: To Be Determined*

*Location: To Be Determined*

#### **Next DIDER/DIMER Collaborative Meeting**

*Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 4:00PM*

*Venue: UD STAR Tower (Health Sciences Complex) 4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Room 420*

*Location: 100 Discovery Boulevard, Newark, DE 19713*